

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims found below.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a terminal unit in an exchange, in which signaling for a first subscriber is carried out during execution of a first application program by a processor ~~contained~~ included in the terminal unit, wherein call processing between the first subscriber and a second subscriber is carried out during execution of a second application program, wherein signaling data, generated during signaling, at a message interface are transferred to the second application program by using an operating system for controlling the flow of the application programs, and wherein call data, generated during call processing, at the message interface are transferred to the first application program ~~[[by]]~~ using the operating system.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a terminal unit in an exchange, in which signaling is carried out with the aid of a further exchange by a processor ~~contained~~ included in the terminal unit during execution of a first application program, wherein call processing between the two exchanges is carried out during execution of a second application program, wherein signaling data, generated during signaling, at a message interface are transferred to the second application program by using an operating system for controlling the flow of the application programs, and wherein call data, generated during call processing, at the message interface are transferred to the first application program ~~[[by]]~~ using the operating system.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the generated signaling data or the call data ~~contain~~ include messages with a prescribed structure.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the messages ~~contain~~ include a receiver identifier, or an address reference on a data block with data to be transmitted, or a message identifier for distinguishing the different messages, or a message type identifier for identifying the type of message, or data on the application program generating the message.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the signaling data ~~[[and/or]]~~ and the call data ~~contain~~ include a data block, and wherein, in addition to data to be transmitted, the data block ~~preferably contains~~ includes further data with the aid of which the data block can be assigned to one or more application programs.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein two first application programs are used for signaling with the aid of different protocols, and wherein the first application programs exchange at least one of signaling data ~~[[and/or]]~~ and call data with second application programs via a common or a plurality of message interfaces, and wherein the same command sequence is ~~preferably~~ executed during processing of the second application programs.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein two second application programs with identical or different command sequences are used, wherein the first application program exchanges at least one of signaling data and ~~[[and/or]]~~ call data with the second application programs via a common or a plurality of message interfaces, and wherein the same command sequence is ~~preferably~~ used in the case of second application programs with identical command sequences.

8. (Currently Amended) A terminal unit for an exchange, ~~in particular for carrying out the method as claimed in claim 1~~ comprising[[,]]:

at least one subscriber line for connecting a first subscriber[[,]];

at least one further connection for setting up a transmission channel to a second subscriber[[,]];

application programs for executing switching operations, to which signaling at the subscriber line and method steps for call processing belong, wherein signaling data generated during signaling is used when processing a call, or call data generated during call processing is used when signaling[[,]]; and

~~and further comprising~~ an operating system controlling the flow of the application programs, wherein at least one of the signaling data ~~[[and/or]]~~ and the call data are transferred to one message interface ~~[[by]]~~ using the operating system.

9. (Currently Amended) The terminal unit for an exchange, ~~in particular for carrying out the method as claimed in claim 2~~ comprising~~[[,]]~~:

at least one connection for connecting a further exchange~~[[,]]~~;

application programs for executing switching operations, to which signaling at the connection and method steps for call processing belong, wherein signaling data generated during signaling is used when processing a call, or call data generated during call processing is used when signaling~~[[,]]~~; and

~~and further comprising~~ an operating system controlling the flow of the application programs, wherein at least one of the signaling data ~~[[and/or]]~~ the call data are transferred to at least one message interface ~~[[by]]~~ using the operating system.

10. (Currently Amended) The terminal unit as claimed in claim 8, wherein signaling is executed by a first application program, and wherein call processing is executed by a second application program.

11. (Currently Amended) An exchange, comprising a terminal unit ~~as claimed in claim 8~~, having

at least one subscriber line for connecting a first subscriber;

at least one further connection for setting up a transmission channel to a second subscriber;

application programs for executing switching operations, to which signaling at the subscriber line and method steps for call processing belong, wherein signaling data generated during

signaling is used when processing a call, or call data generated during call processing is used when signaling; and

an operating system controlling the flow of the application programs, wherein at least one of the signaling data and the call data are transferred to one message interface using the operating system.